

## DOES MY VOTE REALLY COUNT?

YES! By voting, you are participating in the American democracy: making your voice heard and bringing the issues that you care about to the forefront. By deciding who should represent you and your community in local, state and federal government, your vote can help shape the policies and laws that affect the daily lives of all Americans.



**saalt**  
SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER

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### SAALT'S 2012 ELECTION RESOURCES

- *Know your Rights on Election Day*
- *How Can I get Involved?*
- *A Guide to the Presidential Election*

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ELECTIONS 2012

# A GUIDE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



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# ELECTIONS 2012

## START HERE



### ANNOUNCEMENT

Candidates announce that they intend to run for President.

### STATE PRIMARY AND CAUCUS CAMPAIGNS

Candidates campaign in individual states leading up to that state's primary or caucus.

Caucuses and primaries can be either *proportional* or *winner-takes-all*. In *winner-takes-all* primaries and caucuses, the candidate that gets the largest portion of votes gets the support of all of that state's delegates. In *proportional* caucuses and primaries, each candidate gets the percentage of delegates equal to the percentage of votes received.

### CAUCUSES AND PRIMARIES

**State Caucus** Registered voters for each party gather and choose their candidate by standing in groups that support that candidate.

**State Primary** Registered voters for each party vote via ballots in a procedure similar to a general election.

### INAUGURATION (JAN 20)

The persons elected President and Vice President are sworn into office, and the new Administration officially begins.



The Democratic National Convention will take place on September 3-6, 2012 in Charlotte, NC. The Republican National Convention will take place on August 27-30, 2012 in Tampa Bay, FL. The Green Party's Convention took place on July 12-15 in Baltimore, MD. The Libertarian Party's Convention took place on May 3-6 in Las Vegas, NV.

### NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Each of the major political parties convenes their delegates, superdelegates, and state and national party officials. The role of a delegate during a political party's national convention is to vote for that party's nominee for the presidential race. In order to win a nomination within a political party, a candidate must win a majority of delegate votes.



### ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Each state has selected electors who decide which candidate to elect based on how the voters in their state voted on Election Day. The number of electors each state has equals its total number of Senators and Representatives. The candidate that receives 270 electoral votes wins the Presidency.



### ELECTION DAY (NOV 6)

Registered voters around the country go the polls to cast their votes for President and Vice President. Certain states allow voters to vote absentee or early, so those ballots are cast before Election Day.



### GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The candidates for President and Vice President campaign and participate in debates to describe their positions on key issues. In 2012, Presidential debates will occur on October 3, 16, and 22; the Vice Presidential debate will occur on October 11.